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FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 116 and 118

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Meetings additional to the approved calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1996-1997

Note by the Secretariat

1. In the course of this year, numerous intergovernmental bodies have requested to convene in 1997 meetings additional to those scheduled in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1996-1997, 1/ as approved by the General Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 50/206 A of 23 December 1995.

2. In his letter dated 9 May 1996 (A/C.5/50/66), the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, expressing the views of that Committee concerning the impact of the Secretary-General's report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/C.5/50/57), informed the Chairman of the Fifth Committee that:

> "Even after taking into account the capacity expected to be released by the cancellation of scheduled meetings, available resources would be sufficient to service only those meetings approved in the calendar of conferences, and no additional meetings requested by any intergovernmental organ could be accommodated without additional resources."

3. In paragraph 25 of its report to the General Assembly, 2/ the Committee on Conferences recommended that the Assembly should consider the budgetary impact of any meetings added to the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium, as adopted by the General Assembly in 1995, taking into account the aforementioned letter.

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4. In the light of the foregoing, the annex to the present note contains a current listing of bodies that have requested additional meetings with conference services in 1997. Next to the requested date, an indication is given as to whether the meeting can be accommodated; otherwise, possible alternative dates for doing so are suggested. As to additional meetings now being discussed in the Main Committees of the General Assembly, the present document could be amended and relevant addenda issued as and when appropriate.

5. The possibility of accommodating a given meeting is based on the resources available, as indicated in document A/C.5/50/57/Add.1, including both permanent resources and a certain level of temporary resources. Any additional demands over and above those levels cannot be met. It is not possible to offset such over-expenditure under section 26E by under-expenditure in another section of the budget, as all budgeted sections have been subjected to economy measures required to contain expenditure within the provisions appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/214 of 23 December 1995.

6. It should be noted that with four exceptions (the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and its pre-sessional Working Group, the Fifth Committee, the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Desertification, meetings of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies), the meetings in question have already been included in the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 1997 annexed to the report of the Committee on Conferences. 2/ In each case, a footnote highlights the recommendation referred to in paragraph 3 above. It should also be noted, taking into account the Organization's available resources, that additional meetings of any body, including those of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, can no longer be accommodated routinely, notwithstanding past practice. In fact, all requests for additional meetings must be considered in the light of the available capacity on the dates requested.

7. As indicated in the annex to the present report, the following meetings cannot be accommodated:

(a) Commission on Sustainable Development, Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, 20 parallel meetings;

(b) Commission on the Status of Women, in-session open-ended working group on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 10 meetings parallel to the Commission;

(c) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12 parallel meetings.

8. The following meetings can only be accommodated if they are held on the dates indicated below:

(a) Committee on Contributions, one-week extension, 27 May-20 June;

(b) Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 30 June-3 July;

(c) Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, 11-21 February;

(d) Fifth Committee, resumed session, to be held either 24 March-4 April, 28 April-2 May, 12-30 May, 30 June-3 July, 14 July-15 August or 25 August-12 September.

9. The following meetings can be accommodated on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings of the working groups of the General Assembly:

(a) Open-ended Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System;

(b) Open-ended Working Group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council;

(c) Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development;

(d) Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations.

10. The General Assembly may therefore wish:

(a) To take note of the meetings that cannot be accommodated and those meetings that can be accommodated only on certain dates or on the understanding that there will be no parallel meetings with other working groups;

(b) To reflect this situation in the calendar of conferences for 1997;

(c) To inform the bodies concerned.

Should the Assembly wish to modify the selection of meetings that can be accommodated, it should be noted that, given the finite conference-servicing resources available, this would require the identification of other meetings on the calendar of conferences to be dispensed with.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/50/32), annex II.A, and ibid., Supplement No. 32 (A/50/32), addenda (A/50/32/Add.1 and 2).

2/ Ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/51/32).

ANNEX

Body	Location	Dates requested in 1997	Comments
1. Commission on Sustainable Development - Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, fourth session: 10 additional meetings for 1 week extension and 20 parallel meetings, total 30 additional meetings	New York	10-21 February	One week extension can be accommodated, 10-14 February. Parallel meetings cannot be accommodated.
2. Commission on the Status of Women - In-session open-ended working group on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: parallel meetings to Commission on the Status of Women	New York	10-21 March	Parallel meetings cannot be accommodated.
3. Committee on Contributions: 1 week extension	New York	2-27 June	Can be accommodated if Committee changes dates to 27 May-20 June.
4. Open-ended Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System: renewal of mandate	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated on the understanding that there would be no parallel meetings of the working groups of the General Assembly.
5. Open-ended Working Group on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council: renewal of mandate	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated on the understanding that there would be no parallel meetings of the working groups of the General Assembly.
6. Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on An Agenda for Development: renewal of mandate	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated on the understanding that there would be no parallel meetings of the working groups of the General Assembly.
7. Open-ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations: renewal of mandate	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated on the understanding that there would be no parallel meetings of the working groups of the General Assembly.

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Body	Location	Dates requested in 1997	Comments
8. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - and Pre-sessional Working Group: additional session	New York	30 June-3 July (Working Group) 7-25 July (Committee)	Can be accommodated.
9. Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated 30 June-3 July.
10. Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated 11-21 February.
11. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	New York	To be determined	Can be accommodated.
12. Fifth Committee, resumed session	New York	To be determined	Dates when can be accommodated: 24 March-4 April 28 April-2 May 12-30 May (26 May - United Nations holiday) 30 June-3 July (4 July - United Nations holiday) 14 July-15 August 25 August-12 September
13. Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts	Geneva	20-31 January	Can be accommodated.

Body	Location	Dates requested in 1997	Comments
14. Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on the question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Geneva	3-14 February	Can be accommodated.
15. Commission on Human Rights - Open-ended working group on the question of a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms	Geneva	24-28 February	Can be accommodated.
16. Commission on Human Rights - Open-ended working group to elaborate policy guidelines on the effects of structural adjustment programmes on the full enjoyment of human rights	Geneva	3-7 March	Can be accommodated.
17. Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session: 40 additional meetings	Geneva	10 March-18 April	Can be accommodated.
18. Commission on Human Rights - Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	Geneva	12-16 May 15-19 September 26 November- 5 December	Can be accommodated.
19. Commission on Human Rights - Group of Experts to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development	Geneva	To be determined	Can be accommodated.
20. Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	Geneva	To be determined	Can be accommodated.

Body	Location	Dates requested in 1997	Comments
21. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, sixth session (parallel meetings for informal consultations and open-ended working groups): 12 parallel meetings	Vienna	24 April-8 May	Cannot be accommodated.
22. Assembly of the International Seabed Authority	Kingston	17-28 March 18-29 August	Can be accommodated.
23. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification, meetings of Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies	Rome	29 September- 10 October	Can be accommodated.